David Halen, Violin

Concertmaster of the St. Louis Symphony

David Halen is living a dream that began as a youth the first time he saw the St. Louis Symphony perform in Warrensburg, Missouri. Born in Bellevue, Ohio, he didn't have to look far for his musical infuluences: his father, the late Walter J. Halen, was also his violin professor at Central Missouri State University; his mother, a former member of the Kansas City Symphony; and his older brother, the Associate Concertmaster of the Houston Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Halen began playing the violin at the age of six, and earned his bachelor's degree at the age of 19. In that same year, he won the Music Teachers National Association Competition and was granted a Fulbright scholarship for study with Wolfgang Marschner at the Freiburg Hochschule für Musik in Germany, the youngest recipient ever to have been honored with this prestigious award. In addition, Mr. Halen holds a master's degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, studying with Sergiu Luca.

Mr. Halen served as Assistant Concertmaster with the Houston Symphony Orchestra under Sergiu Comissiona and Christoph Eschenbach until 1991. He then came to St. Louis, where he

was permanently named Concertmaster in September 1995, without audition, by the Orchestra, and with the endorsement of then Music Directors Leonard Slatkin and Hans Vonk. He has soloed with the orchestra in much of the major conterti in the violin repertoire. Most recently he performed the Brahms violin concerto with music director David Robertson conducting. In addition he has soloed with the Houston, San Francisco and West German Radio (Cologne) symphonies.

During the summer he teaches and performs extensively, serving as Concertmaster at the Aspen Musical Festival and School under Robert Spano. He has also soloed, taught and served as Concertmaster extensively at the Orford Arts Centre in Quebec, the Manhattan School of Music, Indiana University, the National Orchestra Institute at the University of Maryland, the Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, and the New World Symphony in Miami Beach. In 2007 he was a visiting artist at Yale University, and appointed Distinguished Visiting Artist at the new Robert Mcduffie Center for Strings at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

As cofounder and artistic director of the Innsbrook Institute, Mr. Halen coordinates a week long festival, in June, of exciting musical performances and an enclave of aspiring artists. In August, he is artistic director of the Missouri River Festival of Arts in Boonville, Missouri. His numerous accolades include the 2002 St. Louis Arts and Entertainement Award for Excellence, and an honary doctorate from Central Missouri State University and from University of Missouri-Saint Louis. In 2010 he was appointed to the Missouri Arts Council.

Mr. Halen plays on a 1753 Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin, made in Milan, Italy. He is married to Korean-born

soprano Miran Cha Halen and has a 15-year-old son.